

Commando rockets hit Israeli resort

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1 (R). — Arab guerrillas inside Lebanon Thursday night fired a number of Katyusha rockets in the direction of Nahariya, a Mediterranean sea side resort in northern Israel, but caused no damage, a military spokesman reported here.

A number of similar incidents have occurred along Israel's northern border in the past few days.

JORDAN TIMES

جوردين تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانكليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية « الراي »

Frankfurt consulate bombing averted

FRANKFURT, West Germany, Jan. 1 (R). — Three bombs discovered by chance in the Chilean consulate here Thursday were defused only two hours before they were timed to explode, police said.

Police said they had no clues to the identity of the bomb-layers, it was not immediately known if documents or passes had been stolen, they added.

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82 die in mysterious Lebanese plane crash

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia, Jan. 1 (R). — A Lebanese airliner crashed in the Saudi Arabian desert at dawn Thursday, killing all 82 people aboard.

The new year was just two days old when the 67 passengers and 15 crew boarded the East Airlines flight 438 en route for Beirut and Muscat. They had been delayed eight hours at Beirut airport because of a Boeing 747 jumbo jet on which they were scheduled to develop engine trouble.

They had to wait while a replacement plane, a Boeing 720, was flown into service.

M.E.A. officials meanwhile flew a New Year's Eve party to the group, bringing a cool meal from the city because the airport kitchens were out of action for lack of fuel.

Abdullah Mahdi, Director General of Civil Aviation in Saudi Arabia, said the Boeing 720's last contact with Kuwait control tower was at 02.00 GMT and that it crashed half an hour later.

Aviation sources in Riyadh said the plane was seen clearly on radar following its normal flight when it suddenly disappeared from the screen.

Saudi aviation authorities sent doctors and nurses from an American Aramco oil company base at Dhahran to help the rescue teams that flew to the scene of the crash.

The Saudis were taking the bodies back to Dhahran for identification at the airport on the Saudi Gulf coast, for repatriation.

Most of the dead were Lebanese, the passenger list showed names which seemed to be European. Two babies were among the victims.

Investigators were looking for the plane's black box flight recorder which might

provide a clue as to why the plane crashed out of empty sky in good weather, apparently without any previous indication it was in trouble.

M.E.A. officials in Beirut ruled out sabotage by a time bomb and said a bomb activated by barometric pressure would have gone off long before the plane reached the point where it came down.

M.E.A. officials in Beirut gave the names of 14 Europeans who had been aboard the plane. They included Mr Robert Kulka and his wife Micheline, who were flying from Paris to Muscat.

Mr Kulka was formerly Manager of Beirut's Phoenicia Hotel, which was badly damaged in last month's street fighting, and his successor was found dead in the battered building.

Mr Kulka was manager of the Intercontinental Hotel in Paris and was believed to have been going to Muscat to inspect the Intercontinental just built there.

Six men had come from Athens — G. Proditis, E. M. Sisis, S. Santos, A. Traigas, Vratsides, and G. Paviakos, four from London — D. T. Stevenson, C. Witheridge, B. G. Bufall, and G. Holyoake, one from Larana, Cyprus — P. Minaides — and one from Oslo.

The latter was a man called Strand whose first name was either Patrick or Eric and who was believed to be a seaman going to join a ship at Dubai.

The nationalities of these passengers was not known, the officials said.

The officials said the cause of the crash would remain a matter of speculation until the investigation teams found the black box recording the crew's conversations and monitoring the aircraft's performance.

Asked if they were considering the possibility that a bomb might have been planted aboard the plane, they said this was ruled out by the fact that the plane had left Beirut eight hours late.

If a timebomb had been aboard it would have exploded while the plane was still at Beirut and if a bomb activated by atmospheric pressure had been planted that would have exploded soon after takeoff as the plane climbed immediately to its cruising height of 33,000 feet.

Flight 438 should have been a Boeing 747 but the jumbo jet that should have made the trip

developed engine trouble, and passengers were transferred to the 720 which, the officials said, had a full pre-flight check before departure.

Government and Aramco teams who flew in three planes to the crash site returned here Thursday night with the remains of more than 50 of the crash victims, Aramco officials said.

The officials, who did not go with the search teams, said the bodies would be taken to a temporary Aramco morgue for identification.

(In Beirut, an M.E.A. spokesman said later Thursday night that 73 bodies had been recovered before darkness fell. He said the plane was in three sections, lying close together, but

(Continued on page six)

Algeria alerts vets for Sahara action

ALGIERS, Jan. 1 (R & AFP). — Algeria has alerted the veterans of its Independence War to stand by as tension mounts between Algeria and Morocco over the Western Sahara, informed sources said Thursday.

Tanks and infantry from the Algerian standing army of more than 70,000 men have been stationed on the long border with Morocco for several weeks and have been reinforced.

The border is closed to Algerians and Moroccans but travelers of other nationalities report being allowed to cross.

There has been no official comment here on reports from

Rabat that 26,000 Moroccans have been obliged to leave Algeria but officials have said that Moroccans who were illegally in Algeria have been told to go.

The sources could give no figure for the number of veterans now on standby but a full mobilisation of veterans would double the manpower resources of the army.

Observers said Algerian preparations for any repercussions from the Sahara crisis appeared to have been stepped up since a 24-hour visit to Algeria by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi at the beginning of this week.

President Houari Boumedienne told reporters after meeting the Libyan leader that the two countries rejected any concessions either on the Sahara or on the Palestinian issue.

The semi-official Algerian daily El Moudjahid Thursday carried a front page report from the 'Liberated Territories' in the Sahara which said more than 1,000 Moroccan troops had been killed or wounded in fighting in the territory since late October.

The Moroccan Army lost 327 killed and 814 wounded and 12 tanks and 64 others military vehicles destroyed, it said. It gave no account of Polisario losses.

The report also said that in the fight for the southern most Sahara town of La Guera, occupied by the Mauritanian army

(Continued on page six)



BEIRUT. — A man dressed as Santa Claus hands out gifts in down-town Beirut on Wednesday, during march by youths calling for an end to the civil war.

Scattered shooting amid general calm in Beirut

BEIRUT, Jan. 1, (R). — The New Year opened quickly in Beirut Thursday with the Government's efforts to restore law and order to the streets achieving growing success despite scattered shooting incidents.

Snipers fired a few shots in the commercial centre of the city and between the suburbs of Ain al-Rummaneh and Shiyah.

In one incident a gunman opened fire on security forces in Damascus Street. They fired back and silenced him, police said. It was not known if he was killed or had abandoned his position.

Damascus Street is part of the ragged line dividing the city into two armed camps.

Shooting resumed shortly after midnight in the southern and northeastern suburbs after two days during which warring factions appeared to be hardening their stand politically.

The gulf between them yaw-

ned as wide as ever. Moslems and leftists continued to demand a greater voice in the government, but conservative Christian leaders rejected any change, Interior Minister Camille Chamoun told Agence France Presse Wednesday.

His close ally, Pierre Gemayel, head of the Phalangist Party, said the situation has "reached a stage where there is nobody qualified to negotiate with."

If Christians and Moslems could not live together because of foreign meddling, partition would be a natural solution, he said.

Officials announced that the private militia of both sides completed the evacuation of central Beirut Wednesday night.

Yet witnesses saw these factional fighters at various points in the "evacuated" area firing their guns into the sky at midnight to usher in the New Year.

That indicated they could man their abandoned barricades in a matter of moments if large-scale hostilities broke out again, as they have repeatedly since the first clash last April.

The shooting since then has killed an estimated 8,000 and wounded 24,000—about one casualty for every 100 citizens in the country.

A mop-haired teenager with a stubby Kalashnikov rifle under his arm Thursday sauntered down a side street off the capital's Riad al-Solh Square within 100 metres of troops under orders since Wednesday to shoot people carrying arms without authorisation.

Another youth with a sub-machine gun stood in the middle of broad Fouad al-Awal Avenue handing out propaganda sheets to the few cars that dared to stop.

The rival factions have pulled back from some of their forward positions along a line which runs from north to south through the city and separates the mainly Moslem west from the predominantly Christian east.

But in areas behind the front line where troops have not been deployed, gunmen were as visible as ever. Troops have taken up positions in the city centre and today the area was barred

(Continued on page six)

Algeria releases raiders after OPEC states' calls

ALGIERS, Jan. 1, (AFP). — Algeria freed the raiders who seized oil ministers at OPEC's Vienna headquarters last week out of "respect for the wishes of the governments involved in this affair," the Algerian daily El Moudjahid declared Thursday.

The decision to set free the group headed by Carlos, alias the Jackal, was therefore not the sole responsibility of Algeria, the newspaper stated. It noted that one of the conditions imposed by the commandos for releasing the oil ministers was

that the raiders should then be freed.

As a result, El Moudjahid said, the commando leader was set free "the day after total completion of the operation." It described comment in the Western press on Algeria's action as "base denigrations."

"It would be to belittle the opinions and advice of the 12 states (whose ministers were seized at a meeting of the Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries) to pretend that the decision belonged to Algeria alone," the newspaper said.

"Algeria's action was legally right and in accordance with the firm recommendations of the other countries of the organisation in order to develop by all means a respect for the complete integrity of the hostages and to avoid a catastrophe which would have damaged irreparably the struggle of the Third World and its solidarity," El Moudjahid wrote.

El Moudjahid said Algeria was motivated above all by humanitarian aims in freeing the group after their hostages had been released.

"Algeria believes it carried out the double task which it took upon itself in order to obtain freedom for all of the hostages."

The first of these tasks was in line with a humanitarian ob-

(Continued on page six)

Israelis ponder ideas on status of West Bank, Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (AFP). — A project concerning the future of Jerusalem was highlighted on Israeli radio Thursday.

The project stresses self-government for the inhabitants of occupied East Jerusalem and freedom of choice between Jordanian or Israeli nationality; as well as diplomatic immunity for the Holy Places and Holy City, such as that enjoyed by embassies.

The project has been proposed by MP Yacoub Hazan, of the Marxist-Socialist Mapam Party, the largest in the Israeli Government.

The project, with the exception of certain points, has been commended by the Israeli Mayor of occupied Jerusalem, Mr. Teddy Kolik, while it has been rejected by the Deputy-Mayor, Mr. Yehuda Massa, of the Likud Party.

Mr. Kolik added that since 1967, 89 per cent of the inha-

(Continued on page six)

Work begins on new year plan

AMMAN, (JNA). — Work began yesterday under the Five-Year Development Plan.

The plan, under Prime Minister Rifai, Wednesday evening approved the Plan for 1976-80.

The plan's main aim is to continue the developing process in the Kingdom, accelerating the pace of growth effectively with comprehensive planning which takes into account the necessity of meeting all kinds of challenges facing the development movements in the Arab World.

Priorities will be given to production sectors and auxiliary infrastructure capital programs which aim at creating the necessary developments and changes in order to give the Jordanian economy more reliance on its own potentialities.

growth and not through foreign aid which should be complementary, not alternative, to local possibilities.

With the cabinet approval of the new Five-Year Plan on the last day of the Three-Year Plan, work in the Five-Year Plan will be carried out with the 1976 budget which is the first year of the Plan.

Hundreds of U.S.-backed troops reported in Angola

BOSTON, Jan. 1 (R). — Hundreds of American ex-servicemen have been sent to Angola and more have been trained and equipped to go, the Christian Science Monitor says in a report published Friday.

"Despite congressional efforts to keep the United States out of the Angolan civil war, the covert American operation is increasing and becoming more organized," the newspaper says.

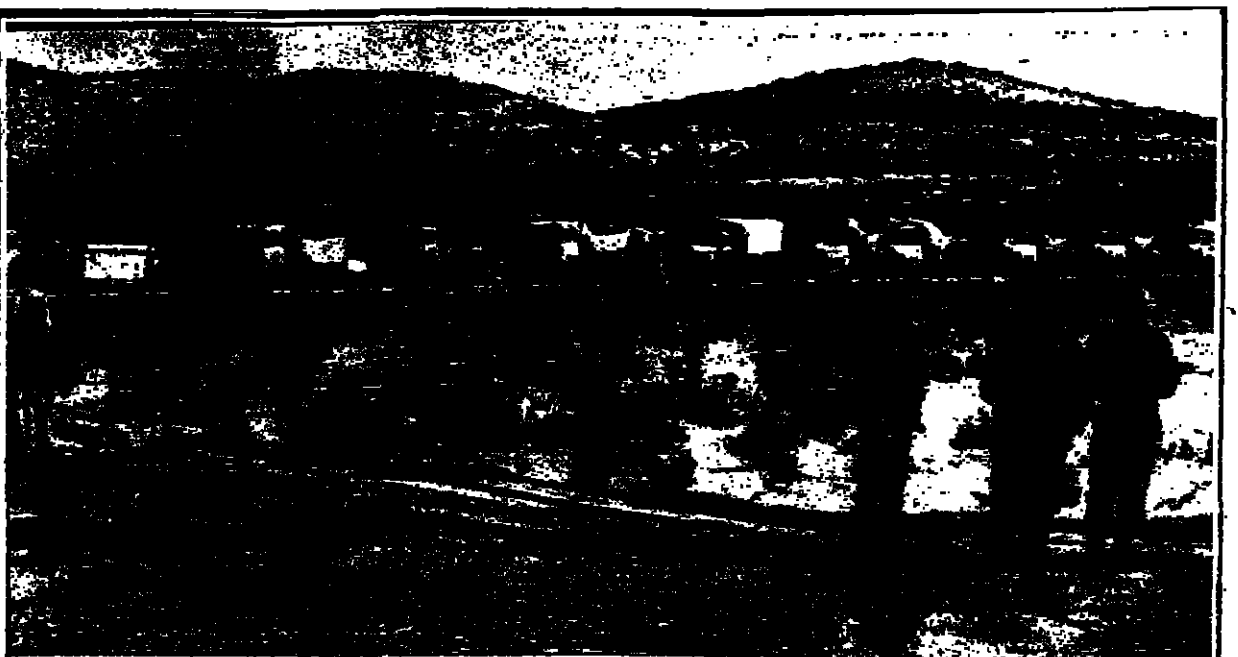
Quoting sources close to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the article, written by David Anable, says the CIA is "indirectly recruiting American ex-servicemen, training them, dispatching them to South Africa and contributing toward their pay via funds for Zaire and Angola's two pro-American fronts (FNLA and UNITA), and providing them with indigenous forces with light and heavy weaponry."

Anable says a recruiting programme for 150 helicopter pilots and mechanics — to fly and maintain a squadron of helicopter gunships — has started in the U.S.

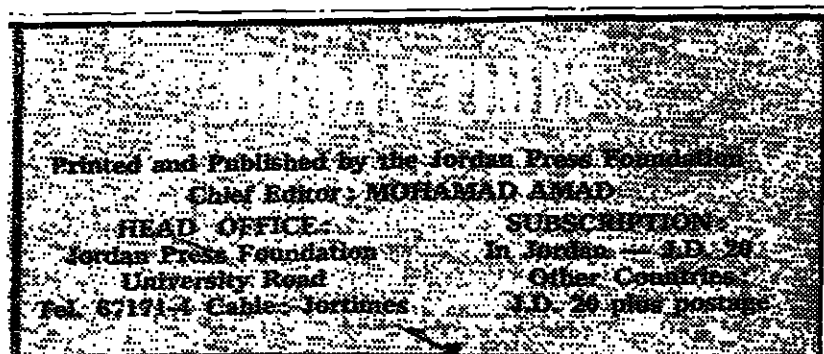
He says 13 helicopter gunships are already on their way from France to Angola via South Africa.

The writer says the picture of an increasing American involvement emerged from contacts with senior mercenary officers both in Angola and the United States.

A CIA spokesman Thursday refused to comment on the report and White House deputy press secretary John Carlson



SINAI DESERT. — Egyptian convoy crosses the desert to set up the Egyptian observation post. (See story on page 3).



ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Both AL-RA'I and AL DUSTOUR commented on the new year and reviewed the major issues which dominated the past year.

The papers said that hopes for the new year might be numerous but what is important at this time is that each individual should realise his responsibilities to work in fulfilling his hopes.

AL-RA'I reviewed last year in a philosophical manner, recognising the great achievements reached in Jordan in all fields.

"With joy we say farewell to the past year, and with joy we welcome the new year" AL-RA'I said.

"We, the people of this region, have witnessed the Romans Jews and Crusaders invade this land. Some invaders have gone and others are still here, but they too are eventually leaving," the paper said.

The paper continued, saying, "It is true that this generation has inherited many problems and may be unable to cope with them, but our forthcoming generation will no doubt erase all categories of backwardness and hate and bring to this nation its past heritage while take its place in the world community."

AL DUSTOUR said that among the wishes of the Arab in the new year is a hope for real solidarity and coordination for the service of the one cause in the Arab world.

"Arab leadership is now called upon to rise to its responsibilities in facing the Zionist challenge which threatens the present and future of this nation."

"Realising responsibilities is different from fulfilling a wish" the paper said.

AL DUSTOUR stressed that the path which the Arab nation has to cross is difficult, but there is no other choice if it intends to liberate Arabs in the occupied land and in the forefront of Jerusalem.

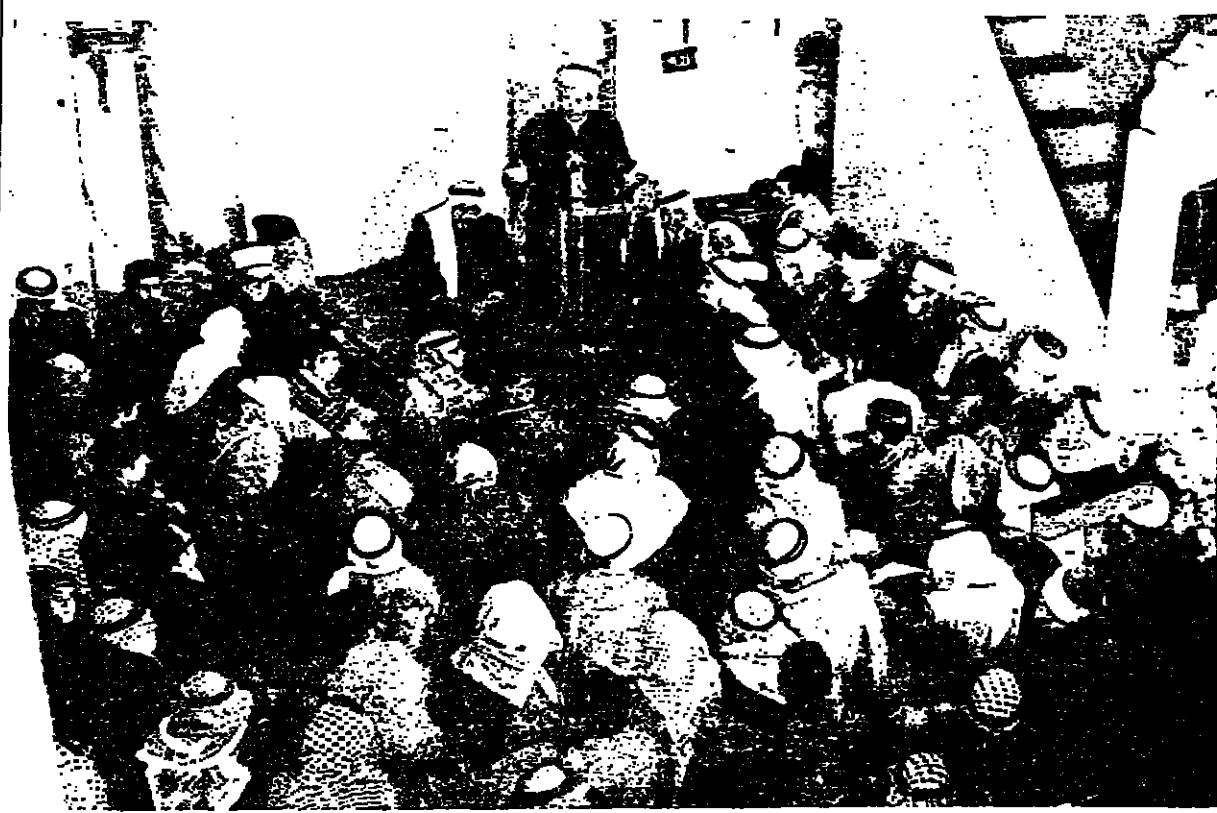
"Occurrences during the past years teach us that Arab solidarity is basic to any objective and successful Arab move" AL DUSTOUR said.

"These facts," the paper continued reflect "the great responsibility the Arab leadership is shouldering"

A year has passed with a wound in the Arab East (Lebanon) and smoke at al-Maghrib over the desert is being felt.

It is hoped that the smoke will not ignite into fire, and that this great nation will be united to concentrate their efforts in facing the real challenge which is represented in Zionist aggression on Arab land. The paper said.

Finally the paper said, "we hope the new year will be a year of responsibility and not only of hopes and wishes, so that it will be a year of Arab unified action in all the Arab sphere."



Awqaf Minister speaking during the ceremony marking Al Hejira.

Product price reduction announced

AMMAN, (JNA). — Prices of several basic consumer products have been reduced, sources at the Ministry of Supply has said.

Egyptian rice : a reduction of 15 fils per kilo bringing the retail price down to 180 fils per kilo.

Shortening : a reduction of 55 fils per can (Balance brand) bringing the retail price down to 800 fils and a reduction of 580 fils per can (Nargiss brand) bringing the retail price down to J.D. 5,900.

New trade centre planned

AMMAN, (JNA). — The possibility of the Private and Public sectors participation in international fairs were discussed at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Dr Hashem Dabbas the under secretary of the Ministry presided over a meeting in which the discussion centred on the Jordanian trade centers in Cairo, Khartoum, and Baghdad and the possibility of establishing a new centre at Bahrain in accordance with the trade agreement signed by the two countries lately.

NRA examines Wadi Al-Dalil electricity supply

AMMAN, Dec. 30 (JT). — The Natural Resources Authority is examining methods to guarantee electrical supply to water pumping stations in the Wadi al-Dalil area, the deputy Director of the Natural Resources Authority, engineer Ahmed Dhahqan announced Tuesday.

The Jordanian Electricity Authority is conducting a technical study for securing independent electric power stations for the Wadi al-Dalil area.

The project will cost J.D. 12,000 Mr. Dhahqan said.

Health relations discussed

AMMAN, (JNA). — The Minister of Health Dr. Trad Qaddi has received in his office the British Ambassador in Amman. The two discussed health cooperation between the two countries and the British technical aid programme.

The British Ambassador expressed his country's willingness to increase such cooperation.

New city bus routes planned

AMMAN, (JNA). — The Cabinet authorised the Public Transport Corporation to open new bus routes to include the whole region of Amman. The Director General of the Organisation Mr. Ali Hindawi said that the organisation will receive 15 buses next month to ease the congestion on some routes.

Moslems celebrate Prophet's migration

AMMAN, (JNA). — Religious celebrations on the occasion of the Islamic new year (Hejira) took place at the Hussein Mosque in Amman on Thursday as well as in various parts of the Kingdom.

Moslems throughout the world feasted Thursday in commemoration of the migration of the Prophet Mohammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 A.D.

The year 622 is considered the beginning of the Hejira calendar (Islamic calendar) in which 1976 corresponds with 1396 Hejira.

On the occasion, Dr. Abdul Aziz Khayyat, Minister of Religious Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs in a statement addressed all Moslems, wished them a happy new year.

Agricultural marketing plan discussed

AMMAN, (JNA). — A plan for marketing agricultural products was discussed yesterday at the Ministry of Agriculture which included the Ministers of Supply and Agriculture.

Sources at the Ministry of Agriculture said that coordination between the two Ministries is in progress to take into consideration the local market.

Manufacturing of car-trailers planned

AMMAN, (JNA). — A company for manufacturing car-trailers for local goods transport, will be established in Jordan, Jordan News Agency has learned.

Twenty-five per cent of the company's J.D. 4 million capital will be shared by the government, another twenty five per cent will be shared by an American firm and the remaining fifty per cent will be covered by the private sector.

Jordan will attend Berlin tourism fair

AMMAN, (JNA). — The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has decided to participate in the Tenth International Berlin Exhibition for Tourism which will last for ten days.

The fair will also hold a conference to be attended by the participating countries, to discuss latest methods of the tourism industry.

Syrian Minister invited

AMMAN, (JNA). — The Minister of Endowment and Religious Affairs Dr. Abd-Al-Aziz Khayyat has extended an invitation to his Syrian counterpart Sheikh Abd-Assatan Assayed to visit Jordan.

The aim of the visit would be to develop and coordinate cooperation between the two countries in Islamic affairs especially in guidance and Islamic conferences.

and hoped that this year will see the end of the Israeli occupation. He also called for further cooperation to achieve their national Islamic aims.

Border delegation returns from Syria

AMMAN, (JNA). — Mr. Nather Balgar, Irbid governor and the delegation accompanying him returned here Wednesday after a 2 day visit to the district of Dera'a where the Jordanian delegation met and discussed with Syrian officials on ways and means to coordinate and consolidate cooperation between the two border districts.

The delegation was seen off by the Governor of Dera'a who expressed his satisfaction of such a visit, "which will help," he said, "in unifying the positions of both countries in various fields."

The Jordanian delegation had visited during its 2 day stay a high voltage power plant at Mzeireh, the Basra antiquities and carpet factory at Basra and the city of Suweida.

JNA starts outside transmissions

AMMAN, (JNA). — With the beginning of 1976, the Jordan News Agency has started transmission to the outside world. A daily morning news bulletin in Arabic will be transmitted between 1100-1200 hours on

Bus transport to be discussed

RAMTHA, Jan. 1 (JNA). — Necessary measures to facilitate passenger transport by land between Syria and Jordan will be the subject of discussion of a meeting to be held on Sunday at the Ramtha border post.

The meeting which will be attended by the directors of the Jordanian Tourist Transport Company and the Syrian Tourist Company will lay out the details on scheduling regular pullman bus trips between Amman and Syria.

Four buses from each side will be allocated in the first stage of the project to be increased when needed.

Jordanian children win Chankar award

AMMAN, Jan. 1 (JNA). — Three Jordanian Children have won the International Chankar Award, which is sponsored by the Indian Government.

The prizes were handed to the Jordanian Ambassador in New Delhi by the Indian President in the names of Hanan Abdul Hamid es-Samadi, Mansour Ahmed and Nariman Rajab Baslan.

Seven hundred and seven children from various world countries have won the Chankar Awards for last year.

First women cooperative society in Jordan

AMMAN, (JT). — "Equality, development and peace" the ideals of the Jordanian Women's Union for International Women's Year, have also brought into existence the first women's cooperative society in Jordan.

The motto of this new society is to make use of women's potential and capabilities for economic development in Jordan.

The Jordanian Women's Union founded the "new Women's Cooperative Society" out of the belief that no social or economic progress is possible without women's participation, since women have an important role to play in raising the standard of living as well as in population control.

The new Cooperative Society also aims at security equality between men and women, and at preventing human capabilities from being exported out of the country.

To enable women to work outside the home, new nurseries should be established for day care of children. On the other hand, special training courses would be organized for women desiring to have a career.

A J.D. 10,000 loan has been provided by the Cooperative

the foreign firms which have supervised their establishment. Organization to enable the Jordanian Women's Cooperative Association to start its activities.

The income of the society will depend on membership fees and on shares.

"The Cooperative Society for marketing women originating products" is the ultimate goal of this new cooperative, since equal opportunity is not just a human right, but a people's right since women constitute half of the population and hence are an essential element in the development of Jordan.

Royal decrees issued

AMMAN, (JNA). — A Royal Decree was issued approving the amended Land expropriation law. The amended law which became effective as of Thursday improves and facilitates the procedures adopted in that field.

A second Royal Decree issued, approved the amended companies law which became effective also as of Thursday. The amended law encourages the establishment of Arab and foreign companies in Jordan.

Prime Minister thanks Civil Code committee

AMMAN, Jan. 1 (JNA). — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifa'i yesterday received in his office members of the committee entrusted with drawing up the Jordanian Civil Code under chairmanship of the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, Mr. Bahjat Talhouni.

Premier Rifa'i thanked the committee chairman and members for their efforts in bringing the Code into light.

Islamic Scholar visits Jordan

AMMAN, (JNA). — Sheikh Abdul Rahman Sureti, an Islamic Scholar and member of the Islamic Researches Council in Pakistan arrived in Amman Wednesday for a short visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Minister of Religious Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, Dr. Abdul Aziz Khayyat.

During his stay, Sheikh Sureti will be informed about aspects of Jordan's growth, visit a number of religious institutes and get acquainted with Muslim religious leaders in Jordan.

Tourists up 23 %

AMMAN, (JNA). — The statistics department said that the number of tourists who visited historical places in the Kingdom reached 7116 during the month of August this year against 5879 in the same period last year, representing an increase of 23 per cent.

Research completed on local child development

AMMAN, (JNA). — Scientific studies and research on child development in Jordan have been conducted by the Jordanian Scientific Council.

The research aimed at obtaining an accurate picture of child development in Jordan with emphasis on the following areas.

Measurements of head, body and limbs as well as body

Yugoslav company to prospect in W. Araba

AMMAN, (JNA). — The Natural Resources Authority has given permission to the Yugoslav Ponifica company to prospect for minerals in the Wadi Araba area.

The Deputy Chairman of the Authority, Mr. Ahmed Dukhshan said that in the light of studies which the company will carry out, it will submit offers for exploitation of mineral ores in the area, in cooperation with the Jordanian government.

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Egypt starts work on Sinai warning station

TEL AVIV, Dec. 31, (R). — A convoy of 36 Egyptian vehicles carrying soldiers, workmen and earthmoving equipment crossed Israeli-held territory in the Sinai desert dawn Wednesday, to begin work on an Egyptian early-warning station in the Giddi Pass.

The three square kilometre area for the station, on hill 720 south of the pass, was marked out by Israeli surveyors and officers of the U.N. Emergency Forces (UNEF) Tuesday.

Swedish soldiers of UNEF are to man the perimeter of the station, set up under the latest Israeli-Egyptian interim peace agreement.

The Egyptians are permitted to remain in the area overnight, with facilities to return to Egypt via the Giddi road twice a day, if they wish, in the early morning and evening. They entered the road under U.N. supervision.

Until the final pullback, Israeli troops will accompany the Egyptians as they move in and out of the area. Any minor problems during the building work will be dealt with by a joint commission of Israeli, Egyptian and U.N. officers.

The Israelis already have their twin listening post at Um Khasheiba on the western side of the Sinai mountain range.

The military correspondent of Israel's afternoon newspaper Maariv said Wednesday the Egyptians had introduced army commandos into the coastal strip along the Gulf of Suez leading towards the Abu Rudeis oilfields they reoccupied last month. This, he alleged, was in contravention of the interim agreement.

He claimed the soldiers were dressed in police uniforms and were manning road blocks.

The correspondent said the Israeli authorities were not making an issue of this alleged

Growth of Arabs doubles Jews in Israel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1, (AFP). — The population growth of Arabs in Israel during 1975 was nearly double that of Jews—3.5 as against 1.8 per cent—according to official figures released in Jerusalem Thursday.

Under the agreement, a limited number of civilian police are allowed in the area to maintain order, but no soldiers.

Army sources declined to comment on the report.

S. Viet provinces joined with Hanoi

SAIGON, Dec. 31, (AFP). — The restructuring of North Vietnam's provincial set-up announced at the national assembly over the week-end confirms that two of South Vietnam's provinces, northern-most Quang Tri, and Thua Thien, whose capital is Hue, are now attached to the North, according to press reports here Wednesday.

Reports that the two South Vietnamese provinces had been administratively part of North Vietnam for some time now had been circulating in Saigon.

The privately-owned Tin Sang newspaper here, in a report from Hanoi, said that Quang Tri and Thua Thien, under the new set up, would link with the North Vietnamese province of Quang Binh to form Binh Tri Thien.

The restructuring, as approved by the National Assembly in Hanoi, will affect 13 North Vietnamese provinces, and comes at a time when, according to observers here, similar changes are being carried out among South Vietnam's 44 provinces.

Congress party convention gives Mrs. Gandhi free hand

NEW DELHI, Jan. 1, (AFP). — The 75th convention of the Indian Congress Party ended Thursday after approving unanimously resolutions to postpone India's elections for at least a year and to revise the constitution.

On the recommendation of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the 4,000 delegates, who have been meeting at Chandigarh since Sunday, also re-elected Mr. Dev Kant Barooah as President of the Congress party.

They also voted unanimously to continue the state of emergency which has been in effect since June 26.

The elections were to have been held in February 1976.

The practical effect of the Congress Party meeting was to give Prime Minister Gandhi a free hand to follow the strict policy she began with the declaration of a state of emergency. Her task will be made easier by the fact that the Congress Party has an absolute majority in both houses of Parliament.

It is felt that Mrs. Gandhi will have no difficulty in winning approval of her reform programmes and in implementing her as yet unannounced ideas for the revamping of India's constitution.

Population seminar

AMMAN, (JNA). — A regional seminar for the study of assimilating and evaluating the population elements will be held in Amman between the 17th and 21st of next month.

The aim of the seminar which will be attended by statistics experts from West Asian countries and representative of international organisations will discuss and evaluate demographic charts between the countries of the area.

The Economic Committee for West Asia includes representatives of twelve Arab countries which are Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Abu Dhabi and Northern Yemen.

ing approval of her reform programmes and in implementing her as yet unannounced ideas for the revamping of India's constitution.

Independence for Afars and Issas

PARIS, Dec. 31, (AFP). — France Wednesday announced it will grant independence to the French Territory of Afars and Issas (TFAI), better known as Djibouti, its last African possession.

But the French Government expects to retain a military base in the area of the main town and port of Djibouti.

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing declared that the territory, formerly known as French Somaliland or Djibouti, would shortly "accede to international sovereignty".

The territory, of 23,000 square kilometres, occupies a strategic position on the Gulf of Aden, between Somalia and Ethiopia. Its population was last estimated at about 125,000.

The announcement, which followed a cabinet meeting, came at the end of a two-day visit to Paris by the territory's Prime Minister Ali Aref Bourhan.

Mr Ali Aref said after his meeting with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing that "perfect agreement" had been reached on the independence question.

Wednesday's joint communiqué following the talks stated that France was ready to "guarantee" the future state's integrity and security.

For Mr Ali Aref, security is a question of prime importance.

He fears the territorial ambitions of the TFAI's powerful

neighbours, Ethiopia and Somalia.

France held to the principle of self-determination for TFAI, through the French National Assembly, according to Andre Rossi, the Government spokesman.

There are expected to be new negotiations between France and Mr Ali Aref's Government aimed at setting out conditions for independence, during the next few months.

Arabic Society conference ends in Cairo

CAIRO, (JNA). — The Arab Organisation on Education, Culture and Sciences ended Thursday its general conference which was held here by issuing several resolutions and recommendations.

The newly elected President Dr. Muhiyeddine Saber said that the conference was successful and adopted several resolutions which include, the establishment of an Arab Centre on Educational Aids in Kuwait, the preparation of a comprehensive study on establishing an Arab Corporation whose aim will be to unify Arab efforts to disseminate culture and the Arabic language, the establishment of an Arab training centre for illiteracy cadres with Libya as

its headquarters.

The conferees also agreed to complete the study of the project on the teaching of Arabic in Pakistan, and transfer the project of establishing an Arab institute on the development of Arab Universities and higher studies to the Arab Universities Federation for further studies.

The budget of the organisation for 1976/77 which totals \$11 million was also adopted by the conference.

Dr. Muhiyeddine Saber the Sudanese Minister of Education was elected as president of the organisation to replace Dr. Abdul Aziz Assayed.

The new president elected Cairo as the organisation's permanent headquarters.

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LISBON. — Portuguese Foreign Minister Ernesto Melo Antunes returns from visit to Iraq to announce possible economic cooperation with that Arab country.

Portugal's deficit budget shows cuts for military

LISBON, Jan. 1, (AFP). — The Portuguese budget for 1976 includes a sharp drop in military spending and national security costs, partly due to the pull-out from Angola.

The military account comes to two billion escudos (about \$80 million) against nine billion escudos in 1975.

At the same time the Government has earmarked 22 billion escudos (\$900 million) for an investment programme in 1976.

Overall budget expenditure will be 105 billion escudos and revenue 70 billion escudos. The deficit is being met by bond issues.

The social services will receive nearly half the money under the state investment programme. Education and agriculture will also benefit.

Aid will be provided to increase the capital of several state companies, and this measure is seen as a first step to the creation of a national development fund.

President Francisco de Costa Gomes Thursday called on the Portuguese people to make sacrifices to help the country through its serious economic crisis.

In his New Year broadcast, the President said the economic disorganisation of Portugal was obvious.

"Urgent and rapid solutions are needed so that the Portuguese can look to the future with hope," he said shortly after the Government announced the tough austerity programme to tackle the crisis.

Burglary try at Ford election HQ

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31, (AFP). — Would-be burglars tried to break into the offices here of President Ford's electoral campaign organising committee, police said Wednesday.

An alarm was set off when an attempt was made to force the door, but it did not give.

The police said they had not yet identified those responsible.

Israel loses Arab labour

AMMAN, (JNA). — Arab labourers are leaving the West Bank heading to the East Bank of Jordan as the Jordanian economy is witnessing prosperity in general, the Jerusalem Post reported on Monday.

No statistics were given by the Paper but such a move is regarded a reverse to the situation which existed two years ago when labourers were utilising their summer visit by working in the occupied territories.

The Paper added that the number of labourers who are working at Israeli establishments is on the decline specially in the construction and agricultural field.

The latest Israeli official statistics revealed an 11% decline.

The Paper added that 90,000 job opportunities were lost in Israel this year due to the current deteriorating economic situation that prevails in Israel.

Construction rate rises

AMMAN, (JNA). — A statistical bulletin revealed that the areas allocated for housing in the Amman and Zarka areas have increased in September 1975 compared to September 1974.

The bulletin added that the area totaled 39 thousand square meters in 1975 while in 1974 it totaled 29 thousand square meters.

The numbers reflect that Jordan is witnessing a blossoming construction development.

MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

● CAIRO. — Seven members of the U.S. House of Representatives International Affairs Committee are due in Cairo on January 5 to discuss Middle East developments and relations between Egypt and the U.S., an American embassy spokesman said today. During the two-day visit the delegation would meet President Anwar Sadat.

● KUWAIT. — Two British ministers are to visit Kuwait in January, it was officially announced here Wednesday. The secretary of state for the social services, Mrs. Barbara Castle, is due to arrive here on January 8 for a six day visit and Mr. Eric Deakin, a junior trade minister, is due here on Sunday for a four-day visit. The British foreign secretary, Mr. James Callaghan, visited Kuwait in November in the course of a gulf tour.

● TEHRAN. — Ten people, described as Marxist guerrillas — one of them a woman — have been sentenced to death by firing squad on charges of murdering three U.S. officers serving in Iran and five Iranians, an official statement said Wednesday. An 11th guerrilla, a woman, was sentenced to 15 years solitary confinement for her active role in the organisation.

● BEIRUT. — 7 Israeli planes flew over Lebanon twice Thursday morning. Air raid sirens wailed for ten minutes during the first alert as two planes flew over the Marjayoun region in Southern Lebanon. Twenty minutes later, there was a four-minute alert here as two aircraft passed over Beirut before heading back for Israel over the sea, a well informed source.



WASHINGTON. — Publication Plans To Print CIA Names — Doug Porter, coeditor of the magazine "Counterspy," poses beside a poster advertising the magazine in Washington Wednesday. Porter said the publication is not responsible for the death of Richard S. Welch and plans to print the names of about 70 other CIA agents in an upcoming edition.

Turin police nab 11 kidnap suspects

TURIN, Italy, Jan. 1, (AFP). — Police here Thursday arrested 11 suspects immediately after the release of 35-day kidnap victim Carla Ovazza, a relative by marriage of the multi-millionaire Fiat automobile company President, Giovanni Agnelli.

Mrs. Ovazza was freed shortly after the new year began, reportedly in exchange for a ransom of 600 million lire (about \$400,000). She was picked up, apparently unharmed, by a family friend at a place identified by the kidnappers in a telephone call to lawyers who negotiated the ransom deal.

"Police said they were 'practically certain' the 11 suspects were guilty of kidnapping Mrs. Ovazza on November 26. They included a person arrested several years ago for attempting to kidnap a nephew of Mr. Agnelli.

Official sources refused to confirm the ransom amount— one 20th of the original record demand.

Unofficial sources said the kidnappers first picked Mr. Agnelli's daughter as their target, but changed their minds when they learned she was pregnant.

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Venezuela takes over full control of its oil industry

CARACAS, Jan. 1, (R). — Venezuela Thursday formally nationalised its oil industry, fifth largest in the world, ending more than 50 years of foreign control.

President Carlos Andres Perez hoisted a huge Venezuelan flag at the site of the country's first commercially productive well near Lake Maracaibo, in Western Zulia state, to symbolise the takeover.

About 150 guests, including representatives of all the members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), watched the ceremony at oilwell Zumaque One, 800 kilometres west of Caracas.

Zumaque One was drilled in 1914 and shortly afterwards Venezuela began exporting crude oil at the rate of 332 barrels per day.

Exports now average 2.2 million barrels per day, with 100,000 more barrels kept back

for domestic use.

The industry with more than 30,000 workers and responsible for around 85 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings—some \$9 billion last year—is now controlled by the state corporation Petroven.

Petroven takes over the assets of 21 foreign companies and subsidiaries, including Crude—controlled by Exxon—and Royal Dutch Shell.

The nationalisation bill was passed by Congress last Aug-

ust, after almost a year of committee work.

The foreign companies have accepted compensation totalling \$1.018 billion, part in cash, the rest in government bonds repayable within five years at interest of six per cent per annum.

All Venezuela's political parties approve of nationalisation, but opponents of President Perez's Democratic Action (AD) Party disagree with some of the details of the bill.

A world without enough wool?

LONDON, Dec. 31 (AFP). — The world could experience a wool shortage in a few years unless world prices rise to a level that is more attractive to producers, the Commonwealth Secretariat has warned in its latest textile bulletin.

The Secretariat said that during the current 1975-76 year, wool output will be only 17,000 tons (0.6 per cent) higher than the level of the previous year. The latter, however, had seen output five per cent higher than the year before.

The Secretariat said that during the current 1975-76 in the current year would suffice, even if there is a real recovery in the textile industry next year. Accumulated stocks built up during a recession in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have hit record levels.

Guards will outnumber athletes at Olympics

INNSBRUCK, Austria, Dec. 31, (R). — Police and security guards will outnumber competitors at the Winter Olympic Games starting in Innsbruck on February 4, police said Wednesday.

About 2,500 police and gendarmes have been drafted to Innsbruck from all parts of Austria for the 12-day games, a spokesman said. This compares with about 2,000 competitors from nearly 40 countries.

Police precautions, already rigorous, have been sharply increased since guerrillas attacked the Vienna headquarters of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ten days ago, taking ten oil ministers hostage.

Police said workers setting up the Olympic Village and other installations in Innsbruck were being carefully checked. Security may be even tighter if top national leaders come to the Innsbruck games.

The Shah of Iran, a keen skier, has said he may make a visit. If he does, he will be given a large personal bodyguard. The Iranian Interior Minister was one of the OPEC ministers taken hostage in Vienna and threatened with death.

Austrian officials are also ready for a rumoured visit by President Ford, also a ski-fan, but this is considered less likely.

When Mr Ford met President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in Salzburg last June, 1,500 Austrian police were on duty at the scene.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

● GAEVLE, Sweden. — A seven-foot-long Boa Constrictor has been taken on as night watchman at a pinball gallery here. When the gallery is closed, a sign on the door warns of the snake. During the day the reptile sleeps in a box over a heater.

● BELGRADE. — Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia, who will be 84 in May, stayed up until 6 a.m. celebrating the new year and appeared on television, throwing handfuls of confetti and puffing a Dutch cigar. The Yugoslav head of state saw in the new year at Zagreb, the main city of Croatia, dressed in a jaunty yachting cap and a dinner jacket. Marshal Tito dined at a hotel before going to the theatre and later to a soldiers' canteen.

● WASHINGTON. — The population of the United States reached 215 million Wednesday morning, according to a "census clock" just installed at the Department of Commerce.

The clock ticks off an increase in the nation's population at the rate of one person every 21 seconds. One American is born every ten seconds, but one dies every 16 seconds.

● HONG KONG. — Chinese First Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping gave a luncheon in Peking Thursday in honour of Julie Eisenhower, the daughter of former President Richard Nixon, and her husband David. The lunch followed a ceremony at which Mr. Teng wished the

young couple a happy new year and accepted greetings from Mr. Nixon. Mr. and Mrs. Eisenhower, here on a private visit, Wednesday met Chairman Mao Tse-tung, who told them that Mr. Nixon was welcome to revisit China.

● PARIS. — The French Communist Party has announced that 93,873 people joined its ranks in 1975 — a record for the post-war period. The party's Political Bureau said 1,802 new cells had been formed in factories and other workplaces and 276 in rural areas, bringing the total number of cells to 23,178. The Party's estimated total strength is now 550,000 — just over one per cent of the population of France.

● ROME. — The Italian Interior Ministry Thursday released figures showing that kidnapping has become one of Italy's most rapidly growing industries. It said 61 people were kidnapped for ransom in Italy in 1975, compared with 35 in 1974 and 17 in 1973. The average ransom comes out to about \$1.4 million for each victim.

● VATICAN CITY. — Pope Paul VI will start the year resting for two weeks from the tiring burdens he has supported during the holy year. Vatican sources reported Thursday. The pope would cancel his audiences in order to take leave of his crushing duties, which he has borne remarkably well for a man of his age, 78, the sources said.

Any sudden increase in demand for raw materials could bring sharp and exaggerated price rises owing to the current curtailment of supplies and the general low level of investment in new production.

The commodities thought to be most susceptible to such a squeeze are wool, rubber, silver and possibly coffee. The need for the stabilising influence of effective commodity

agreements is expected to become more apparent, and the progress of the various international discussions on this sensitive subject will be closely watched.

The first step forward may be provided by the various committees formed after the Paris economic conference held in mid-December, although preparation for the UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) meeting on commodities slated for May in Nairobi has already run into snags. The IMF (International Monetary Fund) Interim Committee of 20 January meeting in Kingston (Jamaica) to decide on the Fund's proposed 25 million ounce gold sale will also have a long-term effect.



BELGRADE. — Yugoslav President Tito and his wife Jovanka Broz dancing in the New Year.

Tapline resumes oil pumping to Lebanon

BEIRUT, Dec. 31 (AFP). — Pumping of Saudi Arabian oil to Lebanon via the Tapline has resumed, the pipeline company said here Wednesday.

But the flow was being kept down to 150,000 barrels a day because there was plenty of oil already in tanks at Zahran. This stored oil was enough for two weeks' requirements in Lebanon.

The Trans-Arabian pipeline takes oil to the port of Zahran from the Saudi Arabian oilfields. Pumping was suspended last February when Lebanon got into an argument on oil prices with Saudi Arabia and the pipeline company.

Even so, on two occasions in August and November, Saudi Arabia let some oil through to prevent Lebanon suffering a fuel crisis at a particularly tense moment.

China extends aid for Nepal cotton project

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Jan. 1, (AFP). — Work has begun on an \$18 million textile factory, built with Chinese assistance, which will meet 20 per cent of Nepal's needs when completed within three years.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Harkha Bahadur Gurung laid the foundation stone for the plant located at Hetaunda, 90 kilometres south of Kathmandu.

More than 60 Chinese technicians have already arrived in Hetaunda to help in the project. When completed, the factory will produce ten million metres of cotton textiles a year plus cotton yarn to supply cotton industries in Nepal.

India has been supplying cotton yarns and raw cotton for a Nepalese privately-run cotton mill, but a continuous supply for the Chinese-supported factory is not guaranteed because of the state of Sino-Indian relations.

India has been supplying Nepal with \$55 to \$60 million worth of cotton textiles a year, but the new factory should cut down the trade.

Nepal recently signed a bilateral trade agreement with Egypt under which Egypt will

also supply it with cotton yarn and raw cotton.

In another development, the installation of a modern navigation and communications system at Kathmandu airport has been completed with the assistance of Australia and was handed over to Nepal Thursday by Australian Ambassador Bruce Grant.

6 new states join non-aligneds' fund

KUWAIT, Jan. 1 (AFP). — Six more countries have joined the Non-Aligned Countries' Solidarity Fund, bringing the total to 16.

The new participants are North Korea, Bangladesh, Zaire, India, Sudan and Malaysia. They join Peru, Kuwait, Dahomey, Niger, Sierra Leone, Yugoslavia, Cuba, Egypt, Algeria and Indonesia.

The Fund was first proposed by Kuwait at the September 1973 non-aligned conference in Algiers.

Tunisia gets \$15 m Iranian dam loan

TEHERAN, Dec. 31 (AFP). — Iran has agreed to extend a \$15 million credit to Tunisia to help build the Sidi Salem Dam, total cost of which will be \$300 million, it was announced here Wednesday.

The protocol on the credit was signed here Tuesday. Some \$3 million of the \$15 million have already been transferred under terms of a protocol signed last year.

An Iranian delegation is to visit Tunisia soon to hold talks on expansion of bilateral trade. It will also negotiate purchase of Tunisian olive oil, fruits and phosphates.

The two countries have also agreed to study possibilities for exchange of experts in information theory.

ECONOMIC BRIEFS

● WASHINGTON. — Spain has taken up 200 million special drawing rights (SDRs) from the International Monetary Fund under the 'oil facility' for 1975, the Fund said here. The amount is equivalent to \$230 million.

● WASHINGTON. — American meat production in 1976 should hit about 16.9 million tons, up slightly from the 16.6 million ton of 1975, the American Meat Institute has estimated.

● MANILA. — Japan has dislodged the United States as the top importer of Philippine sugar, the Manila newspaper Daily Express reported Wednesday. Quoting Government figures, the newspaper said that in 1975 Japan took 54 per cent of total Philippine sugar exports, but it gave no figure on how much the United States took.

● NEW YORK. — New orders for machine tools in the United States totalled \$103 million in November, a 13 per cent drop from October but 30 per cent above the level of November 1974, it was announced here Wednesday night. The new order figure, represents only about 60 per cent of the U.S. industry's capacity.

● KARACHI. — Pakistan will export 4,000 tons of citrus fruit to Iran this year, it was announced here Wednesday.

● LONDON. — The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry will hold a six and a half day course in basic Arabic for businessmen in February, the Chamber announced Wednesday.

● DACCA. — The Soviet Union has signed two contracts with Bangladesh for the import of 10,000 tons of raw jute worth over \$3.5 million and 15,000 bales of sackings worth about \$2.5 million.

Japan budget aims to prod deflation moves

TOKYO, Jan. 1 (R). — Prime Minister Takeo Miki said Thursday the downward trend in the Japanese economy had halted and that a series of deflationary measures introduced last year were beginning to take effect.

"The Japanese economy as a whole has already bottomed out — there is no question about it," Mr. Miki told a New Year news conference, explaining that the 1976 budget, which is to receive parliamentary approval by the end of March, was designed to follow up measures taken in 1975 to reflate the economy.

Mr. Miki said his main foreign policy aim in the new year is to conclude a peace and friendship treaty with China and move towards closer relations with Asian countries.

In an earlier development, the Japanese Cabinet Wednesday approved a revised draft of its 1976 fiscal year budget also aimed at reflation, the economy and boosting exports.

The budget, to be presented to Parliament in late January, includes a 21 per cent rise in public works spending and an 81 per cent jump in the limit for Export-Import Bank facilities to promote exports.

The Government is budgeting for a total expenditure of 24,296 billion yen (\$18 billion), an increase of 14.1 per cent over the 1975 fiscal year.

Conference proposes pan-Arab university

KUWAIT, Jan. 1 (R). — A conference on developing Arab manpower resources Wednesday recommended creation of a pan-Arab university in Kuwait.

Some 250 Arab intellectuals, scientists and academics, mainly resident in the United States, attended the three-day conference, organised by Kuwait in co-operation with the Society of Arab Graduates of American Universities.

They called on Arab governments to join together in setting up the new university to help promote Arab culture.

The conference also expressed alarm at an increase in illiteracy in the Arab World and called for a pan-Arab plan to eradicate it within a specified period.

The conference also called for lifting barriers to travel between Arab countries, increased educational opportunities for Arab women and moves to reverse the brain drain to the West, by offering terms similar to those enjoyed by Arabs outside the Arab World.

The year women organised for progress

MERVAT AMIN,

